Task force on development of Buddhist places

1842. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force was constituted in 1998 for the development of Buddhist places;

(b) if so, the number of places identified for development; and

(c) the number of places developed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANT KUMAR): (a) and (b) No Task Force was constituted in 1998 for the development of Buddhist places. However, the Department of Tourism had constituted two Task Forces to identify Buddhist centres in various States in 1986 & 1987 and identified 62 centres for development.

(c) The Government of India has developed the Buddhist Circuit of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar & Ajanta and Ellora with the assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) loan from Japan. In addition, the Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Governments has also provided Central Financial Assistance for projects for development of tourism infrastructure at the following Buddhist places in the country:—

Uttar Pradesh: Piprahawa, Sarnath, Sravasti, Kushinagar

Madhya Pradesh: Sanchi

Sikkim: Lachung, Phodong, Pamayantse and Tashiding.

Andhra Pradesh: Nagarjunasagar

Arunachal Pradesh: Tawang Monastery, Tawang

Orissa: Dhauli, Lalitgiri, Udaigiri & Ratnagiri

Maharashtra: Ajanta & Ellora & Karla

Bihar: Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir & Vaishali

Jammu and Kashmir: Hemis & Pethub Monasteries and Choglamser in Leh

Himachal Pradesh: Tabo/Kaza, Rawalsar and Mcleodganj.